The matter was referred to the Ministry in November, 1999, their reply was awaited as of January, 2000.

National Malaria Eradication Programme

3455. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Malaria Eradication Programme failed to make a significant dent on the incidence of malaria; and

(b) if so, the number of deaths due to malaria in 1996, 1997 and 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir. With the launching of Modified Plan of Operation (MPO) for control of malaria since April, 1997, the incidence of the disease was brought down to 2.18 million cases in 1984 against 6.47 million cases recorded in 1976. Since then, the incidence of malaria has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually. There has been a declining trend in incidence of malaria since 1997.

(b) The number of reported deaths due to malaria during 1996, 1997 and 1999 are as under:—

Year	No. of Deaths
1996	1010
1997	879
1999 (Provisional)	1060

Mysterious Disease in Mumbai

3456. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the first two weeks of July, 2000, Mumbai and surrounding areas suffered loss of many human lives due to some unknown disease;

(b) if so, what was the disease; how many lives were lost; and

(c) what remedial action has been taken by the Central Government?